

The Current

Green River Community College



A shot in the dark: from Hawaii to GRCC

Kihani Palmer leaves home to become a fastpitch star here at Green River

Sports page 15

May 7, 2012 | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GREENRIVERCURRENT

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 10

A meme is an idea or image that evolves over time into an icon that usually represents a different idea than the original intentions

Original: "Raperodent"



Today: "Troll Face"



To learn more about this Internet phenomenon read...

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MEMES:

They're everywhere

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'A Night of Flamenco'

Green River's flamenco concert featured several masters of a cultural art form

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Sweet home Alabama

The Alabama Shakes' debut album is fun, soulful, and driven by powerful vocals

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'Solution to Faculty Apartheid'

Adjunct teachers work to end the "part-time Apartheid" salary gap

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Protecting students

A proposal to fix the PE department's attendance policy, which leaves out a crucial point



All photos: Cecilia Rose | The Current

'A Night of Flamenco'

By: Cecilia Rose
Staff Writer

A splash of color and an intriguing rhythm greeted the audience. One by one each of the four performers began to clap, in a unique rhythm. The energy and rhythm grew until it became music.

Marisela Fleites-Lear, Green River's Spanish Department Head, organized this flamenco concert on Monday April 23rd to "provide opportunities as much as possible to expose students to the Hispanic world culture".

Guests included: Teo Morca, Master teacher with 60 years of professional dance, Gerardo Alcala,

the number one flamenco guitarist in the United States, and Vicente Griego, a prominent Cantao (singer) of flamenco music. All done by the aid of Auburn Dance Connection, University of Puget Sound, and Ballet.

Ms. Fleitas-Lear also performed in front of her students for the first time ever in this show.

The flamenco is best described as emotional: "You can go through a lot of different moods in flamenco," said Morca. "Most dance styles [just] have [one] mood,"

The affection of the music flowed from song to song and sometimes within the song between happy, angry, sad and even flirty.

With every song there was a change between the upbeat and the deep passionate feelings.

Each artist presented a piece of the flamenco culture through a solo performance.

Alcala's technique (known as a toque) on the guitar was incredible, his hands moved so quickly in a blur and he played with such passion.

Griego's Cante Jondo was filled with such passion that at one point it seemed like he might even break into tears.

Perhaps the most visually stimulating piece was the Guajiras. Performed by Morca and Fleites-Lear, it told a love story between the two figures, and had a

little Cuban influence in it as well.

Morca started on the stage alone with flowers, showing excitement and anxiety as he waited. Then after a time he appeared to give up, sat down and began to read a paper. Fleites-Lear then snuck up behind and surprised him. Throughout, there was an adorable will-I-or-won't-I rhetoric between the two through dance and flirtations. Eventually the guy won the girl over and they snuck off stage, appearing to kiss behind a hat.

To end the show, they had a traditional ending to any flamenco party, called Bulerias; where all the artists and performers got to improvise and play with

the rhythm, beats, and dance steps. Each artist showcased their talents and personalities.

Both Fleites-Lear and Morca wanted students to take from this experience just a little bit of the culture. "We're just more free" said Morca "We hug a lot, latin people. You

hug a lot, you kiss on both sides of the cheek. men kiss. Let your emotions be free-er."

The next day, following the performance, Fleites-Lear and Morca held a workshop to teach students some basic steps and movements of the flamenco.

Several students participated in this culture-binding experience.

Every person and student who was fortunate enough to attend these events was exposed to a small, but lovely and passionate piece of the Hispanic culture.

Teacher Spotlight: Emma Smith

Position: Japanese Language Instructor
Date of birth: January 21, 1950
Time at Green River: 25 years

Why did you become a teacher?

I've done so many jobs. I've been an HR director, I worked in HR, I worked in customer service, I worked as an income tax manager... but my heart keeps coming back to teaching.

One of my early moments I remember is, I was in second grade [and] my brother was in kindergarten, and I was teaching him his ABC's.

It's something, even with all the other jobs that I've had, I've always had a teaching job on the side. Just because, whether I got paid or volunteered or whatever, I just so love teaching.

And you chose the Japanese Department?

Actually, this is a funny story. Many years ago, the first year of the twenty-five, they didn't have a Japanese department. They had nobody teaching Japanese. I was hired a week before school started and they said, "Oh, how would you like to teach Japanese?" And I said, "Love to." And that's how I got started and I've been here since.

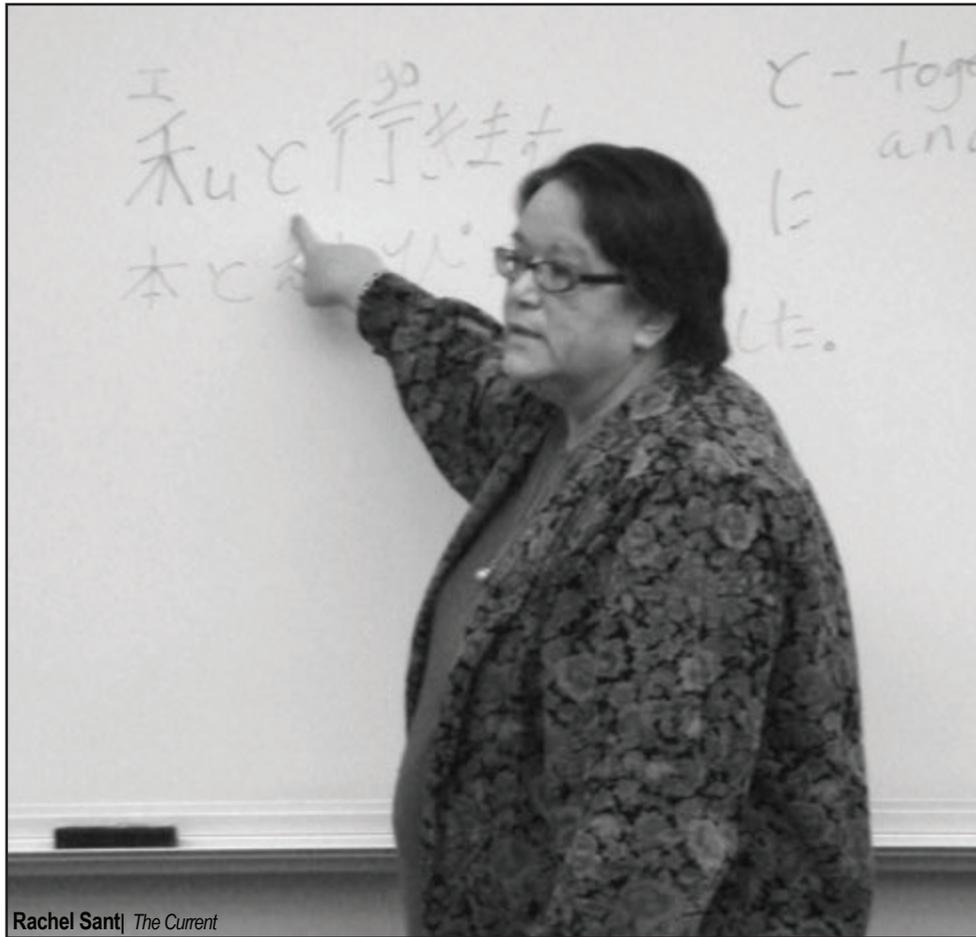


Did you know the language prior?

Yes, my mother was Japanese and I lived in Japan for sixteen years.

So is Japanese your first language?

I don't remember. My dad was American. My mother was Japanese, so I retained the language simultaneously. So I don't have an accent



Rachel Sant | The Current

Smith "Sensei" points out the particle "to" (pronounced "toe") for her Intermediate Japanese class.

either way. It just blended.
Describe yourself as a teacher.

I try to be fun. I try to make learning interesting, because I don't think you can learn if you're bored or hating your teacher. You cannot learn [that way.]

So I try to create an atmosphere that is entertaining, but at the same time, I've got to be serious because this is a college. I try to make sure that everybody is learning, but everyone is doing it in a good environment, so that you're not going 'I hate going to that class.' I don't want that.

Do you do a lot of activities?

Right now, I'm in the middle of using a new book, so it's a little different than it used to be. But we still watch movies. I try to find games that are appropriate, like the flash cards.

I have a Boggle, the American English Boggle version. Boggle is a game that uses cubes. I have the Japanese one; a student made it years ago. And so we make up words with the Japanese letters.

Of all your years of teaching, what do you

think is your favorite memory?

The one year that I had Japanese exchange students. I had, for every two students, I had a Japanese TA. That was my favorite. The reason why it was my favorite is...because the students got the two-on-one. To me, that was just so exciting, listening to them. I would walk around the room and talk to them and each group had something new they were saying. It was the most fantastic year that I've had.

What are you working on right now, as a teacher? Do you have a certain goal you're working towards?

I'm trying to work with a new book. The last book I had for almost twenty-something years... and it had everything in it that I ever wanted. It had cassette tapes, a David Roberts video went with that.

I had the book, I had the work book, I had worksheets. I had everything all together. It was a wonderful package. [But] they went out of print. And I had a week to figure [it] out. I'm trying to work on getting that book to a point where people are more comfortable with it and some

of the weird stuff that's in it.

What do you think is one of the most important lessons that your students have taught you?

To be even more patient than I already am. I've learned off all the different learning types, some people are good at verbal skills, some people aren't. I don't believe the cookie cutter approach to education where everybody fits this little mold. Not everybody fits that mold; everybody is going to be different.

So what's your idea of an ideal student?

No such thing. You know why? Because every student has their own gifts. And to me, someone who wants to learn, is willing to put forward the effort to learn... that is the ideal student. That is the perfect student. One that wants to learn.

So what is it that you love most about teaching?

The variety of students. The challenge of everyday. No one day is going to be the same. Trying different games, trying different ways to help people learn. Seeing what's effective and what isn't.

Man on Street



What is your favorite game/app that you like to regularly play?

[My favorite game is] Words with Friends. I get to wordbully people on a game, and take advantage of their stupidity. I usually play it when I am going to the bathroom, it's the only free time I have.



Jeremiah Spangler

My favorite game on the iPhone is Design This Home, it is like the Sims, you level up and stuff. Yeah, you all know how to play Sims. [I play it] every night right before I go to sleep



Dre' Hughes

My favorite game on the iPhone is Temple Run. [My highscore is] nine million, get at me. I play that every night, in between every class, I am the best. Nine million. That is all.



Byron Benson

My favorite game app has to be Temple Run, or Draw Something. But Draw Something is getting a bit boring, the words are just getting harder. I got into playing game apps on my phone because in between classes I got bored.



Herman R. Claudius

Every other week, *The Current's* editors crawl out of their cave to ask the campus random questions.

Suggest a subject at: thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Here is a selection of this issue's answers. For more, plus an archive of old questions, visit our website: www.thecurrentonline.net.

A gathering of indigenous grandmothers

Elder women from across the globe conjugate, share culture and wisdom for 'next seven generations'

By: Imana Gunawan
Staff Writer

During a rainy Thursday evening, long lines decorated the Lindbloom Student Center, filled with people of all ages dripping with anticipation for the International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers Artist & Speakers Series Event.

The event, held on April 19, showed the documentary entitled "For the Next Seven Generations," followed by a discussion session with two of the 13 Grandmothers, Grandmother Julieta Casimiro from Oaxaca, Mexico and Grandmother Flordemayo from New Mexico.

"The event was conceptualized initially by Spanish instructor Erin Fernandez Mommer to inspire our [Green River] population and bring awareness to our community," said Dani Chang, director of student services, leadership and involvement. "Erin and I collaborated to make this happen."

To kick off the program, Aztec Dancers, adorned with feathers and tribal costumes, performed a ceremonial dance and prayed to the ancestors and spirits, thus blessing the floors of the Student Center for the Grandmothers. The ritual was then followed by a viewing of the documentary created by Carole and Bruce Hart, which narrates the story

of the council's vision and mission.

The council is an international alliance of indigenous female elders brought together by a prophecy, which concerns about the state of the world and its inhabitants. "[We were told] to make a change," said Grandmother Flordemayo.

According to the documentary, the council is one of "prayer, medication and healing for our Mother Earth and all her inhabitants, all her children and for the next seven generations to come."

"We have been to many places around the world," said Grandmother Julieta Casimiro. "We have seen things that have been very difficult, we pray for the Mother Earth, the Heavens, the Moon and

the Sun that will bring us the daily sunlight so that when we awaken, we can take care of ourselves."

When the story of the Grandmothers was finally told, the two Grandmothers introduced themselves with prayers, songs and tales about their current work.

"I have my sacred work, many people come for healing, this is the kind of work that I do and that's why I'm here,"

said Casimiro. "I pray and I sing and I stay with my people between four and five hours."

Flordemayo then spoke about her work, which also involves healing.

"The Institute [of Natural and Traditional Knowledge] that we started, at this very moment, we are in the process of building a seed temple... we're teaching the medicine of sacred bathing," she explained. "Basically what it does is that it

clears the energy: generational things, present things and preparing us for the future.

During the discussion, Grandmother Julieta shared her fears and worries.

"Those that work with arms, that hurts me and you [should not] do that, and for me to see blood, it's not good; so we pray about these things."

On top of that, Flordemayo shared her visions and her interpretations.

"We're in a desperate situation right now, trying to help those that don't have a voice," she explained. "It's an incredible challenge, and so this is part of [our] mission."

Ultimately, the event ended the way it started, with files of people shuffling in lines; only this time, they lined up for the Grandmothers' blessings, saying their thanks and wishing the Grandmothers luck along the way.



Part of the festivities for "The Next Seven Generations" event was dancing. Dressed in Aztec ceremonial garb, many participants performed their dance and wowed the crowd with their mystique and talent.

Veritas: a rendezvous of curious minds

Led by philosophy instructor Ty Barnes and club President Makena Cayce, Green River's philosophy club questions and intrigue

By: Heidi Lyons
Staff Writer

It's not about what one knows. It's not about who one knows, or how one knows things. It's all about knowing that nobody really knows anything at all, and expanding on that fact.

Philosophy Club, better known as Veritas, is a place for Green River Students with a strong desire for knowledge to delve into subjects that perplex the mind.

Every Thursday from 2 to

4pm in SH 152 students are invited to come to the club and join in on their group discussion.

By Merriam-Webster's dictionary definition, Philosophy literally translates out as a "love of wisdom". People can come to openly discuss opinions over that week's specific topic. Or, if speaking isn't a strong point, they can listen and gain a better understanding of what others hold dear to.

Within Philosophy Club's walls, students and faculty

meet up and are given the opportunity to debate a variety of both lasting and contemporary questions that arise.

Students are free to make their own comments in support of a claim, or ask others to expand on a specific topic.

"It's people coming together and talking about a huge variety of things" said Makena Cayce, Philosophy Club President. "We [even] talked about time travel fall quarter".

The topics of discussion

vary from quarter to quarter, but the club itself generally keeps a specific theme and then expands on it at each meeting.

Every week someone reads a passage from any given Philosophical textbook and the club discusses its significance. Once the discussion runs dry, the reading commences and more ideas are shared.

Veritas welcomes any curious Green River student who has a genuine desire for knowledge. Unbiased to any

opinions shared within the conference, the club strongly believes that anyone can find their own niche through Philosophy itself.

"Going there is so interesting because it's not just talking about something," Cayce explained "You're definitely talking about how things work, or why things work."

If Philosophy Club peaks an interest, bring a friend and see where the upcoming conference takes you. During this annual conference

students from various community colleges assemble to present philosophy papers and receive feedback. Keep an eye out for more information to come on the Green River Events Calendar.

With a full potential of undying topics that Veritas can discuss, the club invites anyone to add to their collection of thoughts.

"As long as there are people disagreeing, and reasons for people to disagree" Cayce added, "philosophy will do just fine".

Stay Current

Stay in touch with the community by following
The Current on Facebook and Twitter:
www.facebook.com/greenrivercurrent
www.twitter.com/thecurrentnet

Also on the Inside

"The next few games will be a challenge for this team, but
they are ready to confront their competitors."

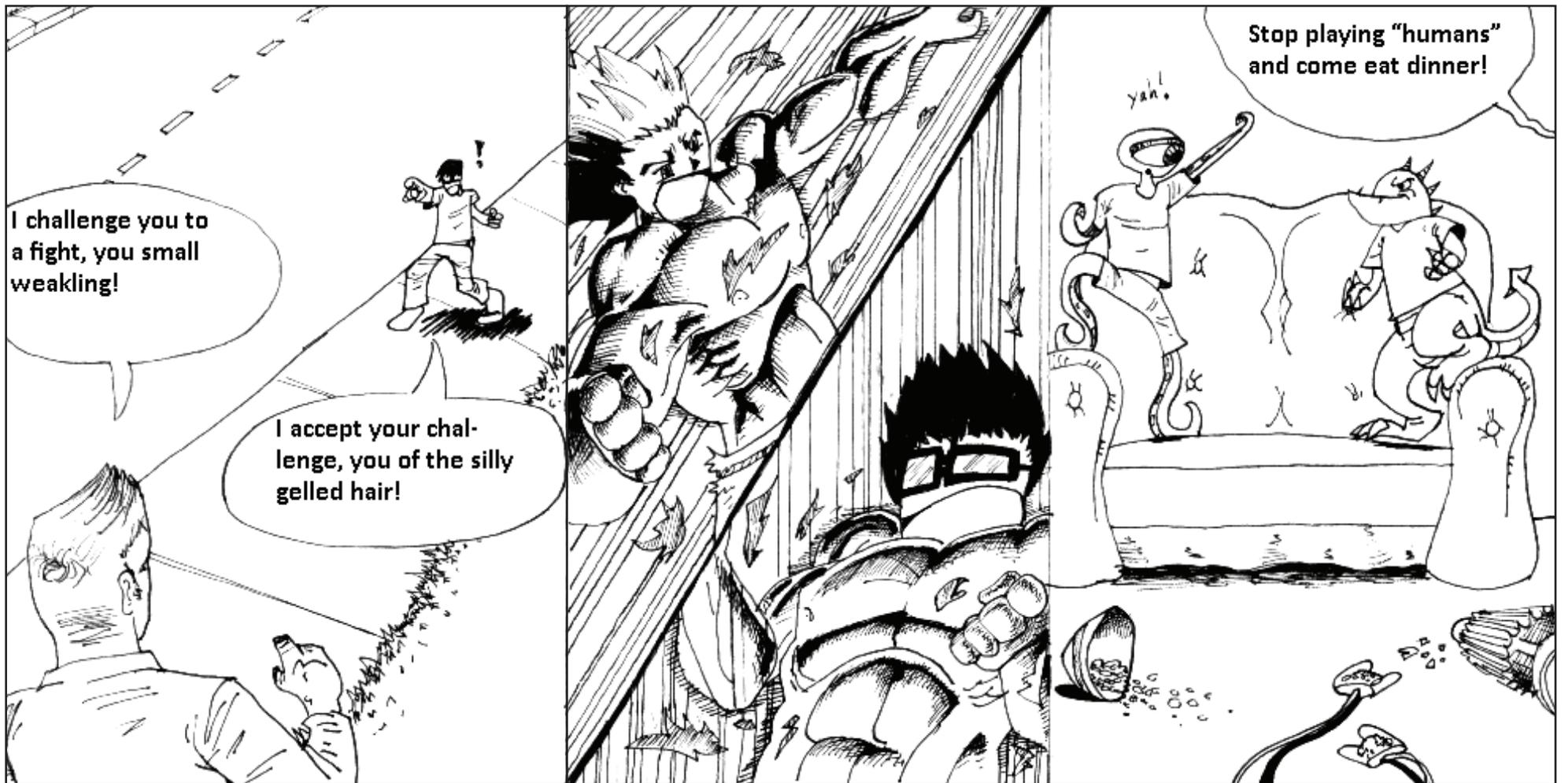
Megan Krzyzanowski Page 14

A&E

A&E Editor: Jacob Jagodinski
ae.editor@mail.greenriver.edu

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May 7,
2012



By: Hayden Scott

*Someone you know
loves her mother.*

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Concert Calendar

May 8	The Black Keys & Arctic Monkeys @ Key Arena (Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$40)
9	Kristin Chenoweth @ Paramount Theater (Doors open at 6:30 p.m. all ages, \$30+)
	Mickey Hart Band @ Neptune Theater (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$32+)
11	Rosie Thomas @ Moore Theater (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$14+)
12	Music Matters Live @ Paramount Theater (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$21.25+)
	Seattle Rock Orchestra: The Beattles @ Moore Theater (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$18+)
	SingCon @ Neptune Theater (Doors open at 6 p.m. all ages, \$25+)
13	Kina Granis @ Neptune Theater (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$15+)
	Death Cab For Cutie @ Paramount Theater (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$31.25+)
15	Million Dollar Quartet @ Paramount Theater (Doors open at 6:30 p.m. all ages, \$25+)
18	Lyric Opera NW: Tosca @ Moore Theater (Doors open at 6:30 p.m. all ages, \$38+)
19	Lindsey Buckingham @ Neptune Theater (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$49+)
	Battle in Seattle: Live Cage fights @ Showbox SoDo (Doors open at 6 p.m. 21+, \$25+)
	7 Horns 7 Eyes @ El Corazon (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$8)
	Mozart's Requiem @ Seattle Symphony (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$17+)
	Dayglow @ WaMu Theater (Doors open at 9 p.m. 18+/21+, \$69.95+)
20	National Geographic Live @ Benaroya Hall (Doors open at 2 p.m. all ages, \$15+)
	Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra @ Benaroya Hall (Doors open at 3 p.m. all ages, \$15+)

MOVIE REVIEW

Cabin, cabin, in the woods...

By: Reece Menzel
Staff Writer



It is typical to see a preview for a brand new film and know how it will end. Most of the time one can watch a trailer and instinctively foreshadow the rest of the film. After watching the preview to "The Cabin in the Woods," it would be much too easy to assume the rest, but in all actuality, that presumption would be completely wrong.

"The Cabin in the Woods" takes a new spin on classic horror filmmaking. Kristen Connolly, known for her minor parts in "The Happening" and "Mona Lisa Smile," takes the role of Dana, as she and her friends take a camping trip up in the mountains to their cabin . . . in the woods!

Not only does the story follow these five students, who are on a weekend getaway, escaping the stress

of school, but it also tracks the endeavors of two men working for a mysterious company.

What was supposed to be a weekend full of partying turns terribly wrong after the protagonists find artifacts hidden within the cabin. What they do not know is that uncovering these secrets will lead their unfortunate fate in this horror grandeur.

Although this film seems like it has the classic set up for a horror film, it has one element that all the others lack: comedy. Yes, this movie has a very good sense of humor in the writing that sets it apart from the rest; and the actors played every bit out seamlessly. Marty (played by Fran Kranz), who is a major stoner, provides comedic relief throughout the film.

It would be easy to assume that with hilarity written into the script, it would take suspense out of the story. Nonetheless, with



Courtesy Photo | <http://boston.savoycinemas.co.uk>

Dana (Kristen Connolly), Curt (Chris Hemsworth), Holden (Jesse Williams), and Marty (Fran Kranz) present their exceptional styles in this daunting thriller.

the soundtrack perfectly supplementing each camera angle, it's not hard for the viewer to get sucked right back into the excitement.

With Goddard's experience writing for the mock-thriller "Cloverfield," it is clear that twists and turns are his forte, and his talented style really shined through in this mind-bending thriller. It would be easy to underestimate this film, but if one can look past the initial hack and slash aspect of this movie they will realize that there is a mystery

that runs deeper than the cabin basement.

The characters in the story may not be who they were initially thought to be, and the blood spilled may not be an accident. But what viewers will find out is that this film will leave them with a rich story, a quenched thirst for uncertainty, and new perspective on a classic genre.

Rated: R
Director: Drew Goddard
Starring: Kristen Connolly, Chris Hemsworth

The Current Picks

WEBSITE/APP

ArtOfManliness.com



By: Bailey Jo Josie

Though its title may seem to segregate the XX from the XY chromosomes, Artofmanliness.com is a fun, informative website that anybody - no matter what gender they may be - can enjoy.

Obviously, it's littered with tips and details on many things like how to properly throw a hatchet into a tree, or how to shave ones face with a straight razor (like Sweeney Todd, save for the cannibalism). But this website also has relationship advice that won't be found in Cosmopolitan.

As the song goes, this is a man's world, and thanks to Artofmanliness.com, anyone, no matter what gender, can join in on the fun.

MOVIE

The Fountain



By: Jacob Jagodinski

Only the fountain stands in the way of eternal youth.

Folk legends grippingly intertwine to formulate the powerful feeling that Aronofsky's film, "The Fountain," rightly concocts.

Hugh Jackman and Rachel Weisz give a stellar performance as three distinctive characters that are set across three polar time frames. Symbolism makes the film what it is, for there is truly nothing more perplexing than how three separate stories, which span over centuries, have any correlation to one another.

This film stands alone as baffling to the human mind and soul.

BOOK

The Everafter



By: Kally Bieber

Madison Santon is dead.

In a dark space all that surrounds her are small bubble-like objects floating around her head.

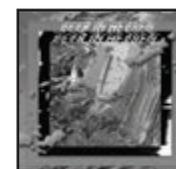
Santrom doesn't know how where she is, how she died, or anything about her life.

But after touching these floating objects, she is able to re-live certain scenes throughout her life, and even being able to change some of the scenes leading up to her death.

This story follows Santron in her journey to make ammends, remember important moments in her life, and learn the truth of her mysterious death. All in order to find peace in the afterlife.

MUSIC

I Love You, It's Cool



By: Gentry Seipert

If you had asked a couple years ago, electro-indie rock band Bear In Heaven had excellently maintained their certain obscurity.

Then they released the critically acclaimed "Beast Rest Forth Mouth" in 2009.

Compared to previous work, their well-received latest album, "I Love You, It's Cool," reflects a more orderly composition. The album sort of floats with a smooth, synth-eneduced air of grandeur.

"Cool Light" and "Idle Heart" stand out on this overall commendable effort. If you're looking for something gripping, then check this out.

Sweet home Alabama

With a deeply assiduous edge and a curve of pleasantry, Alabama Shakes puts forth something of authenticity

By: Gentry Seipert
Senior Writer

Alabama Shakes' lead singer, guitarist and primary songwriter Brittany Howard began forming the band in high school, which was mostly created just for the sake of having a band.

The band was that hodge-podge group of kids which never really "fit in," but found solace in the eclectic mix of music that brought them together. Yes, the band certainly wasn't formed with the notion of breaking into her hometown's music scene - in Athens, Alabama, but then again, what is?

After playing in some local dives, the band began to take shape and form their own identity. Their debut, "Boys & Girls," provides the power and passion that has made this Alabama quartet a bona fide buzz throughout the past year. And while hearing several comparisons of Howard as a "Janis Joplin incarnate" with a "force of nature voice-check" may sound ludicrous, the contrast is not only warranted, but an incredibly

apt description of Howard's overwhelmingly soulful presence.

Throughout the album, Howard is an independent and hard-nosed romantic. Sharing the same exterior of perhaps a world-weary waitress who's seen a thing or two, working two jobs and going home to a sweaty, tank-top wearing deadbeat - while showing a plush interior that desires love and lives on the day to day basis.

For instance, you know that the "Heartbreaker" she sings about is likely to get his ass

kicked, and that the objects of her attention in "I Found You" and "I Ain't the Same" will tow a hard line if they know what's good for them. Yet in the two aforementioned tracks, there's a great sense of gratitude and appreciation to these individuals.

Because Alabama Shakes hoist their fairly "aw-shucks" origins with a sense of candor and pride, their lyrics that seem deeply felt with multiple sonic and auditory reference points predating 1975, while gnashing out their differences.

But fraternizing with these

paranoid extremes bypasses the true grit of the matter at hand - the weird, beautiful part, where the blood and guts rest in the hot sand.

Simply put, "Boys & Girls" is a solid debut. It's really, really good but not quite earth-shifting. It's a record that has clearly been recorded before anyone much cared for who they were or who they weren't, and possibly even before they were entirely sure themselves.

Today, things are moving fast: they've hit the late-night TV circuit, they followed Fiona Apple's headlining slot at NPR's big SXSW showcase last month, their upcoming shows are almost entirely sold-out, and they've been booked as openers for Jack White's spring solo tour.

Maybe sometime this summer, after the tour, he could work his analog-only magic and coax some vast, crushing, walloping mess out of them - something to ensure that this slice-of-humble-pie band gets to stick around for a while, and on their own terms: weird, sweaty, and desirable.



Courtesy Photo | usatoday.com

Alabama Shakes: a unique band consisting of Zac Cockrell, Brittany Howard, Steve Johnson and Heath Fogg.

The girl's got rhythm, apparently little else



WHEN THE MUSIC'S OVER

Bailey Jo Josie

The Pixie's, The Subways, Sonic Youth, A Perfect Circle, Silversun Pickups, Smashing Pumpkins, The B-52's, The Talking Heads.

These are all great rock bands in their own rights and they all happen to have one thing in common - they all have (or had at one point) at least one female band member who plays or has played the bass guitar.

And this fact leaves me ridiculously annoyed.

Not because I find the bass irritating or a lesser instrument (far from the truth!) but simply because I'm not a huge fan of stereotypes.

And in the world of rock n roll and all of its offsprings and sub-genres, there are so many female bassists because it is stereotyped that way.

Look at the movies, "School of Rock" or "The Rocker" - those fictional bands had only one female musician each, and her instrument was the bass.

There are just too many women playing the bass guitar, which roughly translates to, "there are too few women in mainstream music playing the guitar or drums."

Of course there are exceptions to this rule, like Lita Ford, Joan Jett, Orianthi, and Joni Mitchell; they all are pretty great guitarists, but sadly they are a rare commodity to the general music world.

And in terms of female drummers? I guarantee that most people would think of Meg White of The White Stripes and have a hard time coming up with any other chick drummers.

But why is this so? Why is there a higher ratio of women who are drawn to the bass guitar than other instruments in the context of hard rock?

I have a small theory about this. Since rock music is dominated by mostly men, many women who listen to their music and become inspired to play like them might become intimidated by being a minority, since there are few women compared to men who came before them who tried to conquer the guitar or the drums.

However, like I mentioned earlier, there are many women who have found success on bass, and other instrument as well (though they are not as common knowledge or as mainstream) and I believe this is because there is still this stereotype that women aren't as good of musicians as men,

"There are just too many women playing the bass guitar."

just because there are less of them to look to.

In terms of basic rock, such as punk or metal, there isn't too much emphasis on complexity in the rhythm section of a basic four-person band (lead guitar, rhythm guitar, drums, and bass), and most of the time that means the bassist is playing a steady beat that has as very few progressions; in other words, it's kind of an easy instrument to play.

Does this mean that women suck at music? No. Does it mean that they may be a bit lazy when it comes to their musical potential?

Well, from the evidence, I can only conclude that perhaps they are.

Which is why I get a little peeved when I come across a band where there is a woman bassist. It doesn't really effect what I think of their music, but I can't help but shake my head, just because there's no way that a specific gender is worse or better than its opposite at a certain instrument.

And yet, there are all of these bands with one female member slappin' da bass and not acknowledging that, you know, there are other instruments out there.

Fishing in the bowl of tweets

News organizations find themselves fighting for a new online battle for the loyalty of Twitter viewers

By: Jeremy Siregar
Staff Writer

Tweet! Tweet! From the chirping of birds to a famous social media website, twitter.com now acquires one more meaning: a marketing tool for online newspapers.

Twitter, with its 200 million members, is an like an ocean, which the media organizations are fishing for readers every day. For example, there are currently 4,902,408 followers on The New York Times' Twitter. With each news tweet, NYT advertise to its 5 million followers, angling for new subscribers.

Newspaper organization like NYT and the recent Pulitzer Prize winner, Seattle Times, now resort to large social media websites like Twitter to broadcast news. As of April 22, NYT has tweeted 82,000 tweets and Seattle Times, 19,508 tweets.

Unlike other social media like Facebook or MySpace, which allow large numbers of characters to be posted, Twitter allows only 140 characters to be tweeted at one time, which is too short for any full sized news to be mounted. Instead, newspaper organizations tweet only the title of the story followed by a link to their website where the full story was originally posted.

Amongst social media websites, Facebook ranks number one with over 300 million active users, and although Facebook allows for much higher word counts, Twitter is still deemed more suitable for news distribution.

According to Pew Research Center for Excellence in Journalism, only 13 percent out of the 3,016 interviewed individuals receive news from journalists and news organizations on Facebook. Most of the interviewees

receive their news from family and friends. Twitter on the other hand proves to be more acceptable; 27 percent claimed to have received news from journalists and news organizations' tweets.

Dependability on Twitter grows as news organizations like NYT weigh their marketing toward Twitter's 200 million members.

Since March 18, 2011, NYT no longer provides free online news articles. Viewers are given 20 free articles per month before they are required to pay a subscription fee. This policy changed again in April 2012 when NYT decided to only give a lesser 10 free articles.

Twitter acts as free advertising for NYT and other news corporations. With almost no cost at all, NYT advertises their articles through tweets. Prospective subscribers view the fine articles written by

professional NYT journalists. Readers then become captivated and are required to pay a subscription fee to continue to read NYT articles.

Twitter, along with many other social media sites, still lacks the strength to become a major source of news. Online news and search engine websites are still leading as the main source of news on the Internet. At the moment, Twitter acts as a marketing tool for news organizations at best. But fishing is a waiting game. News organizations are patiently fishing on the site for potential readers.

It is only a matter of time until the big catch.



Anti-Joke Chicken



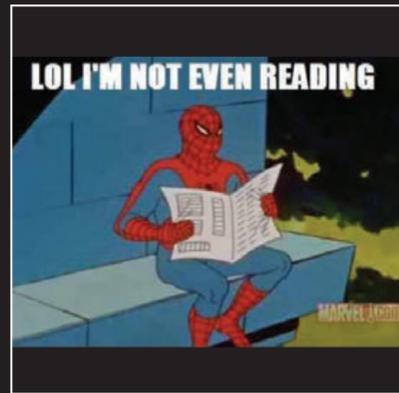
Condescending Wonka



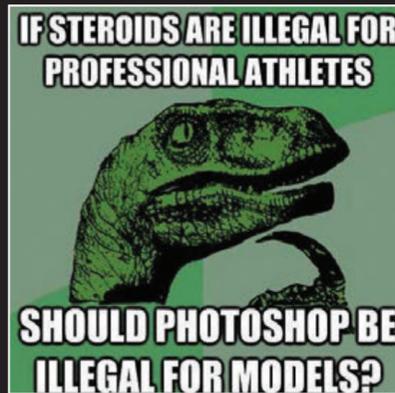
Ridiculously Photogenic Guy



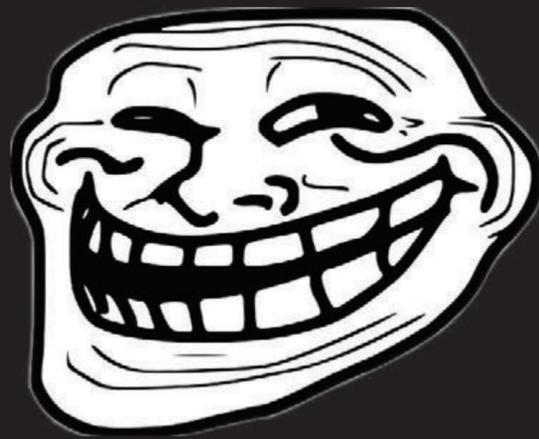
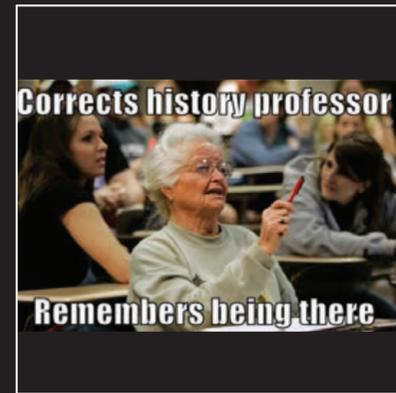
Spider Man Meme



Philosoraptor



Senior Freshman



MEMES

They're everywhere.

By: Sean Rockey & Alexander Bevier

Students and people everywhere are talking about the things they find on the Internet. Whether it's a captioned cat picture or a funny YouTube video, it's staggering just how many people are looking at the exact same thing online.

A meme is an idea, behavior, style or usage that spreads from person to person within a culture. The word "meme" was

coined by Richard Dawkins, an evolutionary biologist, in his book "The Selfish Gene." His book detailed that memes are the things that everybody does in a single culture, such as wearing similar clothes or understanding a whistled tune is a song.

Now, the Internet evolves so quickly, one can actually see how a meme is born. Internet memes originate as posts (usually a funny picture, video or saying) that are spread around and shared on every corner of

the web due to popularity or hilarity. It goes viral. People then start creating other things based on the concept of the initial post. The impact of the original becomes the source and core idea of countless new works.

"The big difference between something that's been deemed viral and something that's been deemed memetic is that with a memetic piece of media you see lots of different iterations of media that reference each other,"

Mike Rugnette, a researcher for knowyourmeme.com told the NPR show "On The Media."

Antoine Dodson was a man from the projects in Huntsville, Alabama who appeared on a local news station talking about how his sister was almost raped. His charismatic threats to the almost-rapist attracted the web series "Auto-tune the News," who makes songs out of the material they find on news networks. The song they made, titled "Bed Intruder" managed to

get 101 million views, and onto the iTunes bestseller list. Dodson later appeared on BET, became a model, and moved out of the projects. Dodson became a meme and is now famous enough to be featured on t-shirts in Hot Topic stores.

Memes don't always start with a person though. A now commonplace meme, "trollface," is a drawing that looks like a mask, smiling devilishly as if to imply it means ill will. Trollface was born from a comic by DeviantArt user "Whyhne",

the purpose of which was to illustrate the pointlessness of "trolling" on 4chan's video game board. Whyhne claims that the inspiration for the face was from a character he saw online called "Rape Rodent," a character reminiscent of Mighty Mouse with a toothy grin. People took trollface and pasted it into other comics, whenever a character was either being a pest or generally annoying people. It has been used to symbolize trolling internet users since late 2008.

Memes, in some cases, started before the Internet. Television commercials like "Where's the Beef?" and "What would you do for a Klondike Bar?" were catchy, memorable, and repeated from person to person. Parodies of these commercials appeared on shows like "Saturday Night Live."

Another meme is the "Ridiculously Photogenic Guy." Zeddie Little became an internet meme after smiling for a camera while he was running a marathon. His bright smile was discovered,

and people on the Internet started writing messages on the picture describing his impact on other things. One example has him entering a straight bar, but finds himself leaving a gay bar; all because of his smile. Little became such a huge hit that he -- along with the man who took the photo of him -- ended up appearing on "Good Morning America."

A majority of the memes created happen on websites like somethingawful.com, 4chan.org and Reddit.com.

Reddit users, called "Redditors," post pictures and videos to the website, then other people vote them "up" or "down" depending on how much they like them. This creates a constant cycle of new content and new memes that could be latched onto by the popular culture.

Facebook is another source for new memes. Users who like and share content have it posted on their wall. Other people see it, and they share it if they like it. Images on Facebook can

often be shared and liked by thousands of people. For example, posts by George Takei, an actor best known for playing Sulu on "Star Trek," are shared regularly by thousands of people.

Memes come and go. Antoine Dodson had his fifteen minutes of fame, while the Ridiculously Photogenic Guy is currently basking in the glow of attention. It won't be long until something new grabs the attention of the Internet.

What would you do for a chance at fame?

The Undercurrent

Secretary of State visits Green River for College Civic Tour

By: Olivia Mok
News Editor

Secretary of State Sam Reed visited Green River on his final annual College Civic Tour on April 19.

Reed, who retires next January after 12 years in office, is taking his time to engage students. He hopes they will devote themselves to their local community and to their civic duties, including voting and becoming an informed voter.

"The biggest problem we have with college students is that they don't tend to [vote]," Reed said. "if you have just been in school and haven't been out to the community, you don't necessarily know who these candidates are."

He cited his personal experience when he was first involved with the governor's race and ended up being in the Spokane County Steering Community when he was young. These experiences not only broaden his horizons, but also provide a sense of satisfaction in making a difference for the community, he said.

Reed is going to end his final annual College Civic tour by May 15. He will visit 45 total college campuses on his tour.

Min. grade increases for fall students

By: Kyuyoung Cho
Staff Writer

The minimum grade requirement for earning course credit will be raised from a 0.7 to a 1.0 starting summer quarter*.

Green River decided to adapt to the same grading system to match the Direct Transfer Agreement, a statewide transfer credit policy that sets the minimum passing grade to a 1.0 for all four-year universities,

"The minimum grade they [four-year colleges] want to see is a 1.0," said Angie Brenner, Credentials Evaluator at the enrollment services. "And the community college is trying to get into that standard."

In addition to the new minimum grade requirement, grades from 0.1 to 0.9 will no longer be assigned to students. Any grade under a 1.0 will be a 0.0.

Existing grades will not be affected by the new policy. "We never change the history of students' permanent records," said Brenner.

*Extension of story will be featured in the following issue

KGRG: number one on iHeartRadio

By: Asha Johnson
Editor-in-Chief

Green River's KGRG – after only one month of joining Clear Channel's college station project – is topping iHeartRadio's charts in popularity among the 14 other college stations from around the nation.

It was recorded that from March 29 to 31, almost 1,600 streamers on iHeartRadio's website were tuned specifically to KGRG's station. These numbers are predicted to increase rapidly in the upcoming months.

KGRG anticipates a minimum of 25,000 listeners per month. They are one of three stations featured in the college radio category of iHeartRadio's website and remain as the only community college station selected on the West Coast.

'The solution to faculty apartheid'

Thomas Sørenes | The Current



By: Niclas Bergh
Staff Writer

The battle for improving salary and working conditions for Green River's adjunct faculty continued at a recent teach-in, "The Solution to Faculty Apartheid," on April 20 in the Glacier Room of LSC.

Arranged by the Green River Adjunct Faculty Association, the event consisted of a panel of three of the most important forces to ensure the voice of adjuncts was not only heard, but respected.

The three panelists were Frank Cosco, President of the Vancouver Community College; Jack Longmate, an adjunct English instructor at Olympic College; and Keith Hoeller, co-founder of Washington Part-Time Faculty Association and an adjunct Philosophy instructor at Green River.

Cosco started by revealing the Vancouver Union contract, a model that shows equality among all faculties.

Together with his experi-

ence as a full-time faculty at Vancouver Community College since late 1980s, Cosco explained that in Vancouver, all full-time and part-time faculty, whether permanent or probationary employment, are paid accordingly through the same salary schedule. This allows part-time faculty to be paid at the same salary rate with adjusted working hours. Say, an adjunct teaching 60 percent of the time receives 60 percent of the full-time payment.

The "regularization" adapted in the Vancouver system, a functional equivalent to tenure, is another key point Cosco stressed. This system assumes a position is permanent after two years of 50 percent of full-time workload, assuming evaluations are satisfactory.

With the current status of U.S. employment contracts, tenure was hardly possible.

"It's just that this stone-wall lack of progress frustrates me," Cosco said.

By revealing the conflict and different values that

exist between full and part-time faculty, Longmate identified the three groups that are in tension: those who are for equal pay for all instructors; those who call for better pay for adjuncts; and those who believe that part-timers should fill in for full-timers.

Another problem with the system in United States is the workload caps in which full-timers can teach overtime at will in the United States. By allowing full-time faculty to bump and reschedule classes for adjuncts, a breach of faculty solidarity was formed, which in turn affects the quality of students' educa-

Faculty Apartheid is about the segregation between Green River's 303 part-time teachers and full-time faculty. Adjunct faculty works for a fraction of the salary that full-time does, according to teach-in statistics

tion.

"A teacher's working condition is a student's learning condition," said Longmate, who believes the Vancouver system of banning overtime work for full-time faculty is more effective in not only improving teachers' work incentive, but also in boosting students' incentive to learn.

With 303 out of 436 Green River faculty members being part-timers, the teach-in panelists affirm that something needs to be done to ensure equality for adjuncts.

"Adjuncts do not have academic freedom," said Hoeller.



The 'Apartheid' teach-in attracted many guests, beyond even adjuncts.

Building grants allow for renovation

After receiving \$19 million in grants, Green River begins construction work for future building projects

By: Shane Lange
Staff Writer

Green River has received three grants, a total of more than \$19 million to completely renovate the college's Science, Mathematics and Technology (SMT) Building.

As one of the core campus buildings built in 1974, major remodeling plan has yet to be done to address associated problems within the SMT building such as the absence of a safety system.

"This [building] was a good candidate to do a complete renovation," said Sam Ball, director of capital projects, who is in charge of the facilities master plan.

In 2007, the first grant was put forward for the preliminary design phase of the building project. With a team of architects hired to meet with instructors teaching in the building, programs that will be held in the building were discussed in order to make sure all kinds of facilities and technology

will be included, aiming for resultant efficiencies for future programs.

As design and construction cost estimates are developed through these meetings, this amount has been sent to the state at the request of the legislature.

While the second grant

was devoted for the designing phase of SMT in 2009, a set of plans were made to confirm the elements that needs to be incorporated within the building.

With the plans submitted to the city, a building permit was issued for actual reconstruction.

Two years after the second grant was received, the third grant was put toward the construction phase. The building was shut down and construction work officially started by December 2011 as a general contractor began renovating the building.

New systems that meet or

even exceed today's standards and code requirements are intended to be ready by 2013. With almost an entire demolition of the building's interior, facilities ranging from new classrooms, offices and study areas to better ventilation and disability and mobility aids.

Exterior improvements will include new windows and selective siding replacements, to name a few.

"Philosophically, we have always tried to build the greenest building we can afford," said Ball. He also said the renovated SMT is designed to be economically- and environmentally -friendly. "We are passionate about [building green]," Ball revealed. "And we will always try to do that."

A more efficient heating, ventilation, and air condition system and the use of recycled material will aim Green River for a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver rating.

Right now, the building's interior was completely demolished in order to start installing new walls, flooring and ceilings. Construction is scheduled to end in spring 2013, and Green River students should be expecting brand-new facilities for their math classes in the new SMT building in fall 2013.



The SMT building, which is scheduled to be finished in fall 2013, has been designed to look much like Green River's Tech Center.

Financial aid announces student debit card

Future students applying for fin. aid will be given Gator Choice card for handling loans and scholarships

By: Jaspreet Deol
Staff Writer

The Gator Choice Debit Card releases in summer 2012. The Gator Choice Card, also known as the Higher One Debit Card, is a Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation that insures funds for students obtaining their financial aid.

"We hope we will have fewer lines and students

will be able to find their [financial] information online with Higher One," says Mary Edington, director of financial aid.

This particular effort was a collaboration between Green River and Higher One, a financial service company that assists higher education institutions in providing students a sound deposit system.

"All students with financial

aid will get a gator choice card," Edington said. "Green River will not disperse money anymore; all of it will go through Higher One."

By registering for a Gator Choice card, students have a choice on how they want to receive their funds, said Edington. Instead of traditional financial aid check delivery, the new system provides students with an alternative to have their funds

deposited in the card.

"Once they use the card to make a choice on how to get the money," said Edington. "It can be used as a debit card if they want to." However, students may choose to have their checks mailed.

The ownership of a Gator Choice card allows students to have identification to enter the Higher One online banking and select the disbursement preference.

The Higher One account, a free checking account within the Gator Choice card, would be activated only if students decide to have their funds deposited into the card. By then, the Gator Choice card can be used as a debit card for school or living expenses.

"Higher One will text or email the student whenever money is deposited into the account," said Edington. "[The students] can use it to pay

tuition just like they would use any master card or debit card."

At the same time, students will no longer have to show attendance forms to the Financial Aid department to check their financial aid status, and that the amount appeared online will be the amount they obtain from financial aid.

"It's a much easier process and I believe students will like it," said Edington.

MAY HOLIDAYS

May 7 - Roast Leg of Lamb Day

May 8 - Outdoor Intercourse Day

May 9 - Lost Sock Memorial Day

May 10 - Clean Up Your Room Day

May 11 - Eat What You Want Day

May 12 - Migratory Bird Day

May 13 - Mother's Day

May 14 - Dance Like A Chicken Day

May 15 - Police Officer's Memorial Day

May 16 - Wear Purple For Peace Day

May 17 - Pack Rat Day

May 18 - Bike To Work Day

May 19 - Armed Forces Day

May 20 - Be A Millionaire Day

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EDITORIAL

To protect students,
add a new clause

Although the physical education department's attendance policy is justified, it is not complete

Editorial Board: David Caldwell, Asha Johnson, Sean Rockey, Jacob Jagodinski, Bailey Jo Josie, Kally Bieber, Olivia Mok, Dylan Whitcher, Thomas Sørenes

It's the middle of spring quarter. Now, imagine that suddenly a close relative, or worse yet, you have to undergo a rather sizeable medical procedure. You would probably have to take a week off from classes, at the very least. When it comes to most classes, if you explain the situation to your teacher, they'll be more than happy to make accommodations to ensure that you can make up any and all lost time. Why is it, then, that even in such extenuating circumstances, that the physical education department has a no-exception absence policy the vast majority of the time; resulting in a massive grade drop, or even a failure?

"I just want to say that [the PE department] wants to be fair in any lab activity class, so if somebody can't participate in the class it's hard to give them a grade" said Anita Behrbaum, a PE instructor at Green River, "In order to be fair, it's hard for us to decide if somebody's hospital stay is different from someone else's dentist appointment."

Under the current policy, teachers are given the opportunity to offer leeway when it comes to attendance problems, as long as what they do

doesn't conflict with what's initially stated in their course's syllabus. That said, the majority of teachers use the current department-wide standard of two free absences followed by a drop in grade for each following absence; regardless of reason or urgency. Not only that, but make-up work is very rarely, if ever, available.

If the emergency is near the beginning of the quarter, the issue isn't so bad; one can simply drop the class and possibly get a refund. However, if something causes a student to miss multiple classes after the drop-date, the best-case scenario for most is that their instructor will give them an "incomplete" grade and they then have permission finish the class' requirements once they're well and able in another quarter. The worst-case scenario is a big fat zero for a class grade, meaning a waste of money, credits and GPA.

"What's the student's purpose in taking a particular PE class? If the student's in there to learn the proper technique for, say, weightlifting, but can't lift weights; what has the student learned?" said Catherine Cantrell, division chair for Green River's PE depart-

ment.

Now, we at The Current are not asking for a full-out overhaul of every PE course's basic code of conduct; not only would that be completely unnecessary but irrelevant. All we're asking is that, under understandable and unavoidable circumstances, the department-wide standard for absences be changed from "NO EXCEPTIONS EVER" to either having make-ups available, or giving an "incomplete" so they can finish it later. Ironically enough, there's no real reason to have a no-exception policy; no exceptions.

Such an alteration wouldn't be difficult; all it would take is to change the standard on their syllabus from "no exceptions" under class attendance to "excusable absences up to the teacher's discretion."

With nearly every other type of course available on campus having this option already enacted, it shouldn't be that difficult for PE courses to allow, for instance, a student to make up an absence by doing a sign-in, sign-out workout before or after their scheduled class. That way getting a passing grade would be no-sweat. No, wait. I guess it wouldn't be.

Editorial Policy

The Current is a limited public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. Green River Community College delegates editorial responsibility for the content of the publications. The college acknowledges the dual free purpose of student publications as instructional tools and as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in the academic community. The views and opinions expressed in The Current do not necessarily reflect those of the college or student

body.

Theft Policy

A person commits the offense of publication theft when he or she willfully or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over more than three copies of The Current that is distributed on campus (with the intent to prevent other individuals from reading that edition of the publication). A "publication" includes any periodical that is distributed on a complimentary or compensatory basis. In addition to the imposition of other campus disciplinary penalties, a person who violates

this provision is responsible for compensating the publication for all reasonable costs incurred, including, where appropriate, the refund of advertising fees.

Letters to the Editor

The Current encourages all its readers to be involved and will publish letters. Anonymous letters are not accepted and the editor reserves the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of length, libel, or propriety. All letters become property of The Current. Send letters to thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

The taste of
sweet successThe Chief
Asha Johnson

If you want to be recognized or praised for your work in any field, you have to put yourself out there. By that, I mean compare or advertise your work amongst other's work within that same field. An actress might decide to get an agent to market her skills; a businessman might decide to invest in a start-up company; but newspapers, especially college newspapers, enter their work into contests to be rated against others within their region.

This year we've learned many ways to improve ourselves as reporters and editors as well as our paper's material, and have managed to proudly walk away with 3rd place in a semi-national Associated Collegiate Press contest.

Spring is our biggest contest quarter. It's the time of the year when we finally get a good rhythm down. It's also when the Washington Community College Journalism Association (WCCJA) awards are held.

The WCCJA awards ceremony is ultimately a Society of Professional Journalists event, but it's specific to our state and two-year school division. This contest declares the best journalism in Washington for online, print and many other categories. Last year our publication earned first place in general excellence, along with 14 other individual awards, making us the best community college newspaper in Washington State.

I definitely kept a goal in mind to get us as close to the same kind of success as last year's paper. As EIC, I needed to not only estab-

lish very high standards for myself and the rest of the staff, but inspire others to take initiative and suggest ideas that were different than my own. A newspaper should be a collaboration of great student minds, all striving to improve or affect our campus in some way.

I won't tell you it was easy, or that I even succeeded in my goal. I'd like to think that in the end I did what I could as a leader to improve our students and – by extension – The Current itself, but it's not a cut and dry answer. Nonetheless, by the end of winter quarter our staff had produced a lot of admirable work, and so I now had to do my part to make sure everyone got proper recognition.

There are close to 30 different categories to enter into with the WC-CJA awards, most of them giving you the chance to submit three or four different articles, designs or illustrations. After spending many hours preparing submissions and paperwork, we submitted 72 separate pieces of work, spanning from spring 2011 to winter 2012.

Though the process was beyond frustrating and sucked 5 days out of my life, it paid off. We recently were informed that 17 individual staff members, as well as The Current staff as a whole, have won awards with the WCCJA. Though we won't find out what specific awards have been won until later, I am incredibly proud of my staff, my friends. I believe that this is the most awards we've won with this organization in The Current's history, and I know that each and every one of our students deserves this honor.

Even if we find that The Current did not place first in general excellence for the second year in a row, to me we have still achieved my goal of success and – dare I say – gone beyond my expectations.

Student government: valuable investment

Success of 2011-2012 ASGRCC President proves that student government matters and voting is worthwhile



Commentary by:
Noah Goucher

Don't forget to vote during the upcoming election, as it can help decide the direction your school takes and give you a voice.

When Associated Students of Green River Community College President Vasyl Sofilkanych took office in 2011, he expressed interest in working with the school for the good of the students. And while not all of his plans have come to fruition, it's clear that he's made good progress in

changing the school for the better.

One such thing is the solution to the smoking ban issue. Some options have been considered, and it will be up to us to vote on and decide them.

The solution to the smoking ban wasn't decided with the goal to appease to either smokers or non-smokers. It was made to give both sides a voice in the matter, to help bring a satisfactory solution to the issue.

"My policy is, if the students don't vote on it, it doesn't pass," Sofilkanych said.

There are a few solutions to the smoking ban: An outright ban, delegating smoking to five certain areas, and allowing smoking

anywhere on campus.

Of course, that's not the only thing Sofilkanych has accomplished.

One of Sofilkanych's "proudest achievements" is the Hunger-Free program, which was started to give

change hasn't happened yet.

The Associated Students doesn't end at the president and vice president. There are several important committees that do various jobs across the school. The

mittee makes sure that the Associated Students follows the rules.

The overall purpose of the Associated Students is to give the students representation and a voice. Sofilkanych says that while approving of clubs and funds may take a while, if a law is made to benefit the students, it will usually pass without issue.

Now, you're probably wondering where you can come into this. There are various ways that you can get involved in the governing of the student body. Every week, the Associated Students holds an open house meeting for students to voice their complaints or concerns.

Another easy way to get involved is simply by voting.

How important is it to vote? How big of a difference can you make?

Very.

As most of you are aware, the solution to the smoking ban was a lengthy process that is finally reaching its end. With the vote coming up, we can finally settle the issue.

A government is as only as powerful as the people who support it. Without your vote, what can get accomplished?

"I feel like [the Associated Students] have the power if they get the people involved," said student Brent Hoofman.

Please remember to vote. The Associated Students does a good job of giving us a voice. It'd be a shame to waste that.

"My policy is, if the students don't vote on it, it doesn't pass."

Vasyl Sofilkanych, 2011-2012 ASGRCC president

people a lunch even if they lacked the money. Although it has yet to go into effect, he is confident that it will be put into law in an upcoming year. Progress has been made, even if the

Finance Committee helps distribute fees to the various clubs on campus, which are ratified by the Judicial Board. The PR committee is in charge of reaching to students. The Bylaws com-

CISPA deserves support

Finally an Internet proposal that helps the system



Commentary by:
Sean Rockey

Oh, look, another internet-related law was recently proposed. With the recent mass protest and eventual rescinding of the Stop Online Piracy Act, one would think the entire internet would be ablaze with frenzy over this new proposal. Why is it, then, that Facebook, Microsoft and many other tech-related companies are backing the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act? Because it isn't that bad of an idea. That's also probably why it got through the House of Representatives on April 26.

CISPA, in a nutshell, gives private companies the ability to share any cyber

threats it encounters with the government, where previously such an act would be considered illegal. Essentially, it means that a company could share who hacked their stuff, so other companies can protect themselves against that specific threat.

Now, notice that nowhere in there does this proposed law give any new powers to the government. All it does is give them the ability to politely request any suspicious activities from companies without immediately arresting them after they choose to comply. As long as you trust your internet provider and the sites you go on, this bill doesn't affect you in any way whatsoever.

Even "pirates" don't have to worry about CISPA. Under the proposal, a cyber threat is defined as "information in the possession of an element of the intelligence community directly pertaining to a vulnerability of, or threat to, a system or

network of a government or private entity". Unless you just downloaded the nuclear launch codes alongside that copy of Lana Del Rey's new album, I don't think you'll get any suspicious knocks on your door.

All that being said, CISPA has some criticisms from concerned citizens. Some people, including the Electronic Frontier Foundation and President Obama, oddly enough, say it has too few limits on when the government can monitor an individual's internet browsing information, and that the government might use it to watch over regular civilians rather than suspicious hackers.

Once again, though, the government only has that option if your internet provider willingly chooses to give up all of their customer's information. Last time I checked, essentially betraying your entire customer base isn't exactly good business sense.

Government spending

Wash. digs deeper hole with poor spending priorities



Commentary by:
Eli Stredicke

The government is wasting money. Due to recent national news stories, the public has access to some local examples of wasting funds.

One example is the Public Records scandal discovered by King 5 investigators. The story showed millions of dollars being wasted in court rooms because the state was not providing citizens with public records when requested. Payouts for these lawsuits were \$1.7 million in 2011 alone. This could have been avoided if officials had just followed the law. Instead, taxpayers have to pay for incompetence.

Another instance of

wasteful spending is sending state employees home, with pay, when they are accused of doing something not appropriate for work. These reassignments are major drain on funds. In the last five years there has been \$17.2 million spent on these free rides.

According to a senator's Wastebook, in 2011 Washington state "paid \$100,000 in federal money for a Celebrity Chef Fruit Promotion Road Show in Indonesia." While a fruit trade would bring in some money for our state, \$100,000 allotted for a road show in Indonesia should not be a top budget priority.

Once, the government paid out \$442,000 for a slogan. The result: "Say WA." Even governor Gregoire acknowledges that this was a waste of money, calling it a "ridiculous expenditure of money."

These examples show that government is obviously not the finely tuned

machine many make it out to be. The most of the largest wasteful expenditures have some sort of merit.

The \$17.2 million spent on sending workers home on a paid leave of absence makes sense to some degree. With all the complaints of misconduct government employees likely get, the policy gets rid of potential miscreants until they are proven innocent or guilty.

However, a more economic way of dealing with the situation would be possible. Perhaps only paying the accused for their absence if they were innocent?

Things like slogans and celebrity chefs on the other hand are difficult to justify. People who pass these bills need to be much more conscious of where they are sending taxpayer money. With the deficit on the rise, it is more important than ever to be careful with how money is distributed.

Track star breaks record

Green River sophomore Josh Melu breaks 23-year-old high jump record

By: Dylan Whitcher
Sports Editor

On April 20, sophomore Josh Melu won Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) player of the week for track and field.

Melu was invited to participate in the prestigious University of Oregon relays, Melu participated in the triple jump where he jumped an impressive 48 feet 0.25 inches.

Melu's jump broke the 23-year-old record once set by Chris Cook back in 1989. Melu finished third overall at the event, placing behind only two University of Oregon athletes. Last year Melu placed second for the triple jump at the NWAACC championships, jumping barely over 46 feet. This year Melu will have his sights set on placing first at the NWAACC championships on May 21 in Spokane.



Josh Melu's position on Green River's track and field include sprints, long jump and triple jump. Photos courtesy of GRCC Athletics.

Standings

West Region	MEN'S BASEBALL				
	W	L	Pct.	GB	Streak
Pierce	14	2	0.875	-	1W
Tacoma	14	2	0.875	-	8W
Lower Columbia	11	5	0.688	3	1L
Clark	7	9	0.438	7	3L
Green River	8	12	0.400	8	7W
Centralia	5	15	0.250	11	13L
Grays Harbor	1	15	0.063	13	8L

West Region	WOMEN'S FASTPITCH				
	W	L	Pct.	GB	Streak
Highline	12	2	0.857	-	1L
Pierce	10	4	0.714	2	3W
Grays Harbor	8	7	0.533	4.5	2L
Centralia	5	10	0.333	7.5	1W
Green River	2	14	0.125	11	1L

Find full league standings, stats and more at www.nwaacc.org

WOMEN'S FASTPITCH

Struggle for the playoffs

After losing nine out of 10 games, Green River's fastpitch team regroup

By: Thomas Petersen
Staff Writer

After eight straight losses, the Lady Gators are struggling to snag one of the remaining playoff spots.

Mid-April has not been kind to the Lady Gators, who had to face first place Highline four times in 10 days. The four games against the Thunderbirds were no doubt the low point of the season.

The team went 0-4 against Highline, who outscored Green River 44-5 in the four games.

With consistent losing, the Lady Gators have decided to add freshman Sarah Steinmetz to the team at

the end of the season, hoping she can give the team a much needed boost.

"We've been waiting for a little extra spark," said Head Coach Danielle McKay.

Facing the four time Northwest Athletic Association of Community College (NWAACC) champions, Pierce College, it was almost guaranteed that Green River's losing ways would continue.

However, Green River's inconsistent offense attacked the defending champs early and often, scoring four runs in the first three innings of play.

A solo blast from sophomore Cassy Duschel in the fourth, proved to be the

nail in the coffin for Pierce, as the Gators went on to win 6-2 in game one of the doubleheader.

The addition of Steinmetz paid off immensely, who was able to get on base twice during the game.

"Sarah has a great personality," said Athletic Director Bob Kickner. "She's a nice girl and would fit in with anybody."

The Lady Gators inconsistencies came back to haunt them in game two of the doubleheader, Green River was blown out 15-4.

Despite losing nine of their last 10 games, McKay is confident that her team can still make a late season push for the playoffs, who,

as of April 30, only trail Centralia by 3.5 games for the final playoff spot.

"I still think they actually have a chance here," said McKay. "They still have a really great shot if they start pulling it together."

Whether the team makes the playoffs or not, first year Coach McKay is not ready to give up on her team.

"We're going to keep plugging away, keep their mentality in the game and keep them motivated."

Only time will tell if the Lady Gators have the determination and tenacity needed to muster up enough wins and make the playoffs for a second consecutive season.

MEN'S BASEBALL

Talent shines despite losses

No playoffs in sight, but Green River's baseball players look to the future

By: Megan Krzyzanowski
Staff Writer

After three straight wins against the Clark Penguins in April, it's safe to say the Gators continue to aspire for greatness despite the playoffs being out of reach.

Coming off of a four-game losing streak, including an embarrassing 3-18 loss against Lower Columbia the previous weekend, this late success has proven to be exactly what the Gators needed in order to stay motivated and to finish the season strong.

"We're continuing to focus on each player finishing this season in a positive manner," said head coach Brian Embery.

"We have sophomores who are eager to move on to the next level of four-year school baseball and we have freshmen who are very motivated and will return and play better than they did this year, so each group has really maintained a certain level of motivation as we wind down this season."

Green River now holds a 4-12 record in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) and are poised to pull off an eight game winning streak against last place Grays Harbor Chokers and the number one ranked, undefeated Pierce Raiders.

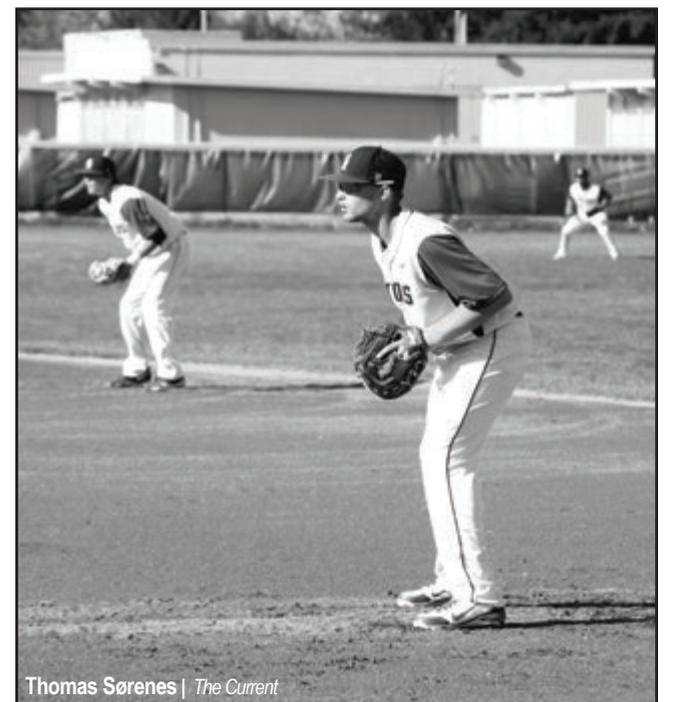
The next few games will be a challenge for this team, but they are ready to confront their competitors.

"I see a lot of potential in my teammates" said freshman outfielder Quinn Hartman.

"If we play altogether like we should, then we could win a lot more games than we have been, our record doesn't show how good we really are."

Hartman is eager to learn from early season losses and is striving to improve upon them:

"Last weekend we played really well and this weekend we're going to continue to keep playing well, pulling ourselves together and getting back on track."



Thomas Sørenes | The Current

First baseman Mark Klick looks on during a recent baseball game.

As the season comes to a close for men's baseball, Embery shares that "my hope is, as we wind down the season, we'll continue to play confidently, both offensively and defensively."

Even with the playoffs out of sight, the team continues to fight hard and stay competitive, which shows

the team's true character.

It's been frustrating watching the losses pile up, but there are also signs of hope, hope of what is yet to come.

Regardless of how the season ends, there is no doubt that the future is bright for this young and talented squad.

ATHLETIC PROFILE

A shot in the dark: from Hawaii to GRCC

Kihani Palmer left her Hawaiian home to play fastpitch for Green River and became a star player

By: Febby Mulia
Staff Writer

Traveling more than 2000 miles to play fastpitch, freshman Kihani Palmer has made the most out of her decision as she continues to shine for the Green River fastpitch team.

Green River Athletic Director Bob Kickner deserves most of the credit for getting Palmer to play at Green River, but luck has played a factor as well.

"I took a shot in the dark looking for a couple more players to fill our team," he said. "Kihani was part of a college student athlete recruiting service and happened to be looking for a place to attend college and pursue her passion for softball."

That "shot in the dark" has paid great dividends for Green River and Palmer

could not be happier.

"It was a last minute decision, but Kickner emailed me and we kind of both just gambled with that opportunity of me being here to play," she said.

A gamble that has indeed paid off, Palmer has an outstanding .469 batting average, 21 RBIs and six triples as a freshman.

However, getting Palmer to become a Gator was anything but easy, moving from the Big Island, Hawaii, a place she has called home her entire life.

"It took us about 10 days to answer her questions and get her situated for leaving the islands to come to Washington. She came on blind hope and we took her sight unseen," Kickner said. "It has worked out beautifully."

Palmer started playing fastpitch as a freshman at



Jeremy Siregar | The Current

Kihani Palmer has become a key ball player for Green River's women's fastpitch team, with an impressive .469 batting average and 21 RBIs.

Kealahou High School as a raw but talented young player. As a senior she earned the honors of All-Big Island Player of the Year. Most people would assume that fastpitch runs in her blood, she began playing fastpitch for fun.

Four years later, fastpitch is Palmer's passion.

Leaving her home state, Hawaii, was not easy but there is not a doubt in the eyes of Palmer that she made the right decision.

"Well you're always going to miss your family and friends back home, but yet I have no regrets moving up here," she said. "It's a good experience for me to see other things than Hawaii."

With her leadership, fitting in with the team has not been a problem for Palmer or the team.

"Working with this team has been a new experience

for me," Palmer said. "Now it feels like we're working together as a team."

However, despite Palmer's amazing play, the team as a whole continues to struggle, posting a disappointing 2-14 record.

"We're trying to work as a team instead of individuals and hopefully the wins will come around," Palmer said.

Nevertheless, Palmer's miraculous season continues to impress the eyes of many, including the man that helped bring her here.

"She has been a huge surprise," said Kickner.

"Now that she is here, she is just an outstanding softball player that we hope will have a desire to pursue a four year degree beyond the walls of GRCC. She has inspired her teammates to be better players and should be a team leader for us next season."

BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Gators prep for fall

Coach Tim Malroy foresees a great season for 2012-2013

By: Thomas Petersen
& Dylan Whitcher

With four confirmed new players coming in to fill the big shoes of the men's basketball's graduating sophomores, head basketball coach, Tim Malroy, is looking forward to next fall.

The coaching staff was forced to deal with the daunting task of replacing sophomore leaders, Chris Plooy, Derek Eilertson and Devin Willis, who all averaged more than 12 points last season.

Next year, Malroy believes scoring will be more by committee rather than specific individuals.

"I think we're going to be very balanced in the scoring department," admits Malroy.

The group of graduating sophomores comprised a lot of what the team did on the offensive side of the court. This forced Malroy to specifically look for players

that could get the job done on the offensive side of the ball.

While it is important to find players who are skilled, Malroy also pays attention to kids who have goals, and athletes that take interest in the student part of the student athlete.

Malroy said he was looking for players who "are planning on going to a four year school at some point and getting a degree and playing at a four year school as well."

The Gators will not only have to replace graduating sophomores, but also a handful of freshman who plan on transferring to other schools come next fall. Malroy refused to give any names but did provide an estimation on the number of freshman players he expects to leave.

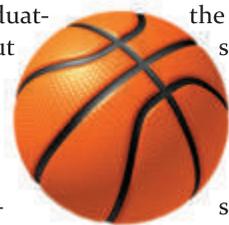
"I'm estimating we'll probably get three or four

back out of the six that we had," said Malroy.

The biggest obstacle the team will face before the season starts is finding time to begin building team chemistry, with only a few months to do so.

Malroy said the kind of system they run, "hinges upon trust so much on the court and most of the time the kind of trust that you really need isn't just built on the court playing together, you need to do some things outside of class."

Practice will start on the first day of school -- Sept. 24 -- and hopefully if Malroy can get his squad together, build some teamwork and take advantage of a little more athleticism, he can start the season off strong and avenge the last two seasons in which the team missed the playoffs by a single game.



Personalized support meets affordability, flexibility, and seamless transfer at state-endorsed online university.

Ken Kinloch's associate's degree and university certificate only got him so far in his career in the technology field. When it was clear he needed his bachelor's degree in Information Security, Ken looked to the state's only nonprofit, competency-based, accredited online university.

At WGU Washington, Ken advances through his program by demonstrating competency in degree subject matter rather than by logging hours in a classroom. He balances school and a full-

time job thanks to the one-on-one support of his faculty mentor, Mariah (pictured above). And as a graduate of a Washington community college, Ken transferred his credits seamlessly into his WGU Washington program.

"As a nonprofit, the cost was right," Ken says of the flat-rate tuition, less than \$6,000 a year for most programs. "Well within my budget. And the program also includes industry certifications. I can apply the skills I'm learning on the job."

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